THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to technological development and installation of improved methods of communication including Teleprinter Circuits over Microwave system in replacement of the existing H.F. Telegraphy links on the Railways, the category of wireless operators was getting progressively shrunk. A decison was therefore, taken to freeze the Cadre of the Wireless Operators and redeploy them on Teleprinter service after giving proper training. However, the scope for promotion of the existing staff has been kept.

In 1984, a proposal for restructuring of the Cadre of Wireless Operators was formulated. However, this was not approved as it was held that in view of the conversion process of Wireless Operators to the Teleprinter working, most of the Wireless Operators could be fitted into Teleprinter side and restructuring of Wireless Operators might act as disincentive to switching over process.

Electrification of Pune-Wadi section of South Central Railway

1504. .SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to electrify the Pune-Wadi section of South Central Railway in the current year;

(b) if not, whether Government have considered the need for such electrification and by when the project is likely to be taken up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (.c) Due to constraint of resources and relative priorities for electrification of other high density routes, there is, at present, no proposal to electrify Pune-Wadi Section of South Central Railway.

Conversion of metre Gauge to Broad Gauge

1505. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whetner the Northern Railway propose to convert the 443 kilometres of metre gauge track into broad gauge track during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Kanpur-Lucknow broad gauge line is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as follows :

(i) Merta Road-Lalgarh	177
(ii) Lalgarh-Kolayat	47
(iii) Kotkapura-Faalka	80
(iv) Lucknow-Kanpur	56
(v) Rewari-Delhi	83
	443

(c) During the financial year 1992*93.

Finalisation of tenders at Divisional Level

1506. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what are the guidelines issued in regard to finalising tenders at Divisional Level and whether they are followed in true spirit at Vijayawada Division of S.C. Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :

Guidelines in respect of finalisation of tenders are contained in the Indian Railways Code for Engineering Department (Revised Edition) 1989 (as amended from time to time) which is a priced publication. Compliance of these guidelines/provisions is compulsory for all concerned with tenders of civil engineering works.